

#### IV. Remarks

##### Status of Claims

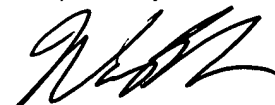
Claims 1 through 16 are pending. Claims 17 through 48 have been withdrawn. No new matter has been added by the election presented herein. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above election and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

##### Conclusion

Claims 1 through 16 are under consideration in the present application.

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Office action have been addressed. Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowability of the elected claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would expedite consideration of the elected claims, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



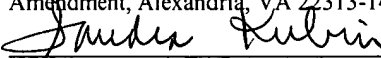
Warren B. Kice  
Registration No. 22,732

Dated: 4/21/04

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 21, 2004



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SANDRA KUBIN

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